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# ABE RUEF'S CONFESSION TAKES FLING AT CORPORATION BRIBES

cisco Officials and "Big Bus- Secret Mesage Received. lations Between San Fran-

By E. N. SMITH.

bribe came from the Crocker bank," Abe Ruef has entered the most interesting part of his prison written autoselling-out of San Francisco.

His most interesting contribution so far refutes the statement often made that they were held up by the Supervisors after the fire, by proving that the corporations began going after whatever they needed before the fire, in fact immediately after the Schmitz Board of Supervisors was elected, and before they took office, according to Ruef, that the opposition papers began talking about graft long before graft was even thought of, so much so that when the Supervisors were was graft everywhere and they might board understand that they would cials. make considerably more money by The prizefight resolution was drawn simply letting Ruef and his men han- and given to Gallagher to be presented dle the corporations and afterwards to the board. Ruef never dealt with he would "settle" with them. Ruef the board direct in matters of this claims he had no desire to graft at kind, but always worked through Galthat time but when the corporations lagher, the "floor leader." Some of offered him fabulous sums to become the supervisors were against passing their attorney, without doing much the resolution at once until they learnwork, he was constrained to accept. ed whether or not there was "some-Put Screws On Him.

of various corporations the screws be- was intimated that the resolution must gan to be put upon him, and the ways be passed at once, and it was, amidst and means are interesting. The Park- the greatest enthusiasm. side land tract, lying beside Golden Gate Park and close to the ocean was over to Ruef some \$17,000, promising H. Crocker's bank. Millions of dollars \$9000 to Gallagher. The latter appearworth of property was to be sold off, ed among the supervisors and passed but nothing could be done unless a out \$500 to each one. Not a single connecting street car line could be run man on the board refused the money, through the property. Application for not a single one asked where it came a franchise was therefor made, but from. They had got their first "blood." the Supervisors, scenting money, refused to pass the matter in a hurry. Everything was done to make the officials hurry the grant, and in a final effort the "interests" arranged for a tour over the property involved, which ended in a most elaborate wine-flowing to pull off naturally would not occur banquet at a road house. It was here with the city in ashes. Ruef told him that one of the Supervisors in a befuddled burst of confidence intimated that the Parkside people were not in business for their health and "neither were we." The matter was seemingly not noticed at the time and was passed off as a joke. But shortly afterwards

the corporations got busy. Mayor Schmitz had demanded that the franchise be passed as a personal favor to him because a man Dingee, close to Crocker, had asked him to do this, and Schmitz was socially heavily indebted to him. But the Supervisors suspected that Schmitz was "drawing down" something and refused to budge.

Getting Large Fees.
Meanwhile G. H. Umbsen, a promin-

ent real estate operator of San Francisco, called upon Ruef to ask if he would accept a large fee to hurry the franchise through. He explained that it meant everything to him personally, he would make commissions on land sales amounting to \$500,000, and would be able to handle the remainder of the great Crocker properties. He had also reserved some valuable lots for himself, and offered to let Ruef in on the deal if he would hurry the franchise through. Before things were settled Ruef was waited upon by Walter Cope a prominent attorney who was President of the San Francisco Bar Association, who also represented the land interests. He came to employ Ruef he said as an attorney for the company, thereupon Ruef named \$30,000 for two years' retainer. Cope returned later to say his clients considered the matter too large, so Ruef said that the matter had better be dropped. That the franchise would probably go through anyway. He considered the matter settled, when a few days later Umbsen again called, said the Parkside people had reconsidered the matter and wanted to pay the money. Ruef now laid the whole matter before Schmitz, who advised the acceptance of the offer after consulting with Dingee. Ruef accepted, and calling at section was entered on the records of Detwiler alone. people deeded the land back to Umh- -which will be discussed in a later sen, who was not to record it un article. the far distant future. Then came the earthquake and fire.

Prospects in Suburbs. After the smoke had cleared away the Parkside company saw the splendid prospects, with thousands of people homeless, of building up an im- fer? the matter of getting the franchise Republic, Rockford, Illinois.

Convicted Grafter Tells of Re- mained in "the air" until a succeeding Board pased it on the original terms.

Late one evening before the Super-

visors had gone into office Ruef re-

ceived a secret mesage to meet a man in a small room in a French restaurant. It proved to be Eddie Graney, SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Aug. 7. - the "honest blacksmith," a sporting With the statement that "My first man and fight promoter. Graney explained that there had been cut-throat competition between the fight promoters so that the fighters and Coffroth. biography, in which he lays bare for Morris Levy, himself and others had the first time the inside history of the formed a combination to divide up the dates for the fight permits. Through previous Boards these clever promoters had gotten legislation passed by the indicted corporation officials which only permitted regularly in orporated clubs to conduct fights. These must have permanent headquarters and a gymnasium. Also an annual taxof \$1200 was levied. All this of chue barred out Eastern sports who could hardly afford to get up a club and pay a large tax for one fight. It also prevented the fighters from pulling off their own fights. Graney proposed to form one combine and wanted Ruef elected, they began to feel that there to see that the permits for fights for the entire year were granted at one as well get some for themselves. This time to his corporation. For this privisituation was not at all to the liking lege Graney offered to make a contriof Ruef as he admits. He feared that bution of \$20,000 to the Labor "politithe indiscreet members of the board cal" fund. This seemed reasonable to dealing on their own hook would even- Ruef, who discussed the matter with tually involve the whole labor admin. Schmitz, stating further that 120 good istration, therefore working through tickets would be reserved at each fight Gallagher he endeavored to make the for the Supervisors and other city offi-

thing to it" for them. This question After he had been put on the staffs was not definitely answered, but it

Immediately afterwards Graney paid to be put on the market by influential the balance in a very short time. Ruef interests, back of which was William gave \$5000 to Schmitz and passed over Later on Willie Britt, one of those in the prizefight combination, came to Ruef and asked for \$5000 back which he had contributed to the fund, saying that the fire had almost ruined him and that the fights he bad expected that personally he had never had any dealings with him and advised him to

call upon the man to whom he paid the money. Britt left very angry. Within an hour Graney rushed in and said that Britt was drinking heavily and talking all over the city about his troubles and what had happened. Graney said Britt had actually paid the money, that he would like to return it, but that the fire had left him more or less stranded, too, or he would return it. Ruef returned \$5000 to Graney, which he promised to give to Britt to shut him up.

Meanwhile the supervisors were having the time of their lives. The "bakers, the barbers, the carpenters, the wagon drivers," who had probably never in their lives had \$100 at one time before, began changing \$100 bills at the corner saloons, etc. Friends and neighbors saw large, fat rolls of money pulled from hitherto empty pockets. Talk of "bribe money" began to fly thick and fast. Gallagher and Ruef learned of this very soon, and Gallagher cracked the whip of authority over them, gave the supervisors a severe tongue lashing and rebuked them

severely for their indiscretion. But the supervisors had begun to live. They had for the first time in their lives found big easy money. They were just getting into that condition where they were afterwards described as being greedy enough to eat the paint off the house.

The Plot Thickens. Early in January, 1906, Gallagher telephoned to Ruef that he had a gentleman in his office who wanted to see him. He refused to state the man's name or business 'over the phone, but wanted Ruef to call at once. This Ruef did, and was presented to a middle-aged gentleman. scrupulously dressed, with iron gray hair and closely-cropped mustache, bright snapping eyes, a firm jaw, a man evidently of great activity and Umbsen's office was handed \$10,000 in him as Mr. A. K. Detwiler, one of the currency as a first "installment." This heads of the Home Telephone Comwas done a few days before the fire. pany, a big corporation, which had The method of payment used by the previously endeavored to get into San corporation was ingenious. The Park- Francisco without avail owing to the side directors voted to buy a piece of successful opposition of the Pacific property from Umtsen for \$30,000 and Telephone Company. With these rea deed was executed and checks for marks Mr. Gallagher softly closed the \$30,000 tendered Umbsen. This tran-door behind him, leaving Ruef and the company. Secretly the Parkside | Detwiler proceeded to his "business"

> "CASE-HARDENED" AD MAN WRITES

Who else would dare make this of-

mense suburb. Umbsen had just re- We quote from a letter from H. M. turned from Honolulu, and took up Johnson, Vice-President of the Daily

through. Plans were hurried. Ruef: "In the twenty-seven years that it informed Gallagher that "\$10,000 was has been my but ness to deal with coming to him" and Gallagher inform- ccpy of all kinds have never seen ed the "hungry" supervisors that they more convincing, logical and forceful would shortly receive \$750 api e ads than those you are sending out. There is one medicine that every

graft prosecution. The franchise re- In reply we sent Editor Johnson Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

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The Army of Constipation



SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE Genuine must bear Signature

Disease, a worthy person to whom our aid would mean something, that we would send a course of Fulton's Renal Compound in an attempts to establish in the very shadows of the Republic's Editorial Rooms. We added that we do not claim recoveries in all cases and might make a failure, but that we would take the chance, and trusted within three months to show such results that the patient would be in comfort and would have new heart and courage in the reasonable probability that recovery could ultimately be had. Ask yourself this question-would

Fulton's Renal Compound can be had at Honolulu Drug Co. Ask for

anybody else in the world dare make

THIS MEANS TOU.

There was some talk of changing the They have a ring of sincerity and the family should be provided with and line of the street cars, but the matter statements have the tone of being a especially during the namer months? was finally closed up, approved and recital of facts that should inspire viz. Chamberlains Colic Cholera and submitted to the Board. Meanwhile confidence. They have so impressed a Diarrhoea Remedy. It is almost cerother business intervened—the primar- case-hardened ad man that he is ex- tain to be needed. It costs but a ies, the famous Santa Cruz state con- ceedingly curious to know if it really quarter. Can you afford to be without vention. There were rumors of a does the wonderful things recited." it? For sale by all dealers, Benson,

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